

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel Claims 1-6 and 8-10 without prejudice. Please amend Claim 7 as indicated in the Listing of Claims. Please add new Claims 11-21 as indicated in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

1-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Use for a~~ A method of treatment of ~~for protection of plants~~ a plant comprising:

selecting a of sulphated fuco-oligosaccharides fuco-oligosaccharide whose having
a polymerization degree is from 4 to 100, preferably from 4 to 20 α -L fucose units, more
particularly of fuco-oligosaccharides corresponding to formulae (I) and (II) represented on Fig. 1
or obtained by way of the process according to claim 5

forming an aqueous solution having a concentration of the sulphated fuco-
oligosaccharide of at least 10 mg/l; and

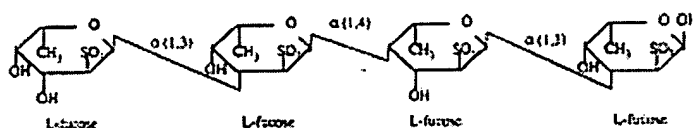
applying the solution to the plant to be treated.

8-10. Cancelled.

11. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the polymerization degree of the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is from 4 to 20 α -L fucose units.

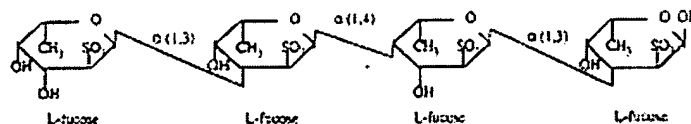
12. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure I:

I



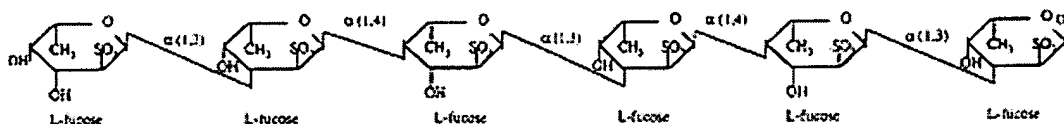
13. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure I:

I



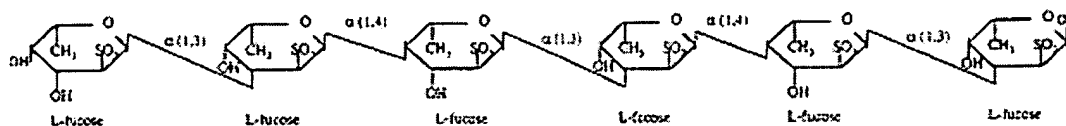
14. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure II:

II



15. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure II:

II



16. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase obtained from a bacterium strain deposited under the number 12171 in the collection DSMZ is used.

17. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step

wherein at least one endofucanase containing sequences analogous to a peptide of ID No. 2, ID No. 3, ID No. 4, or ID No. 6 is used.

18. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the plant subjected to treatment is tobacco.

19. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase obtained from a bacterium strain deposited under the number 12171 in the collection DSMZ is used.

20. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase containing sequences analogous to a peptide of ID No. 2, ID No. 3, ID No. 4, or ID No. 6 is used.

21. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 11, wherein the plant subjected to treatment is tobacco.
